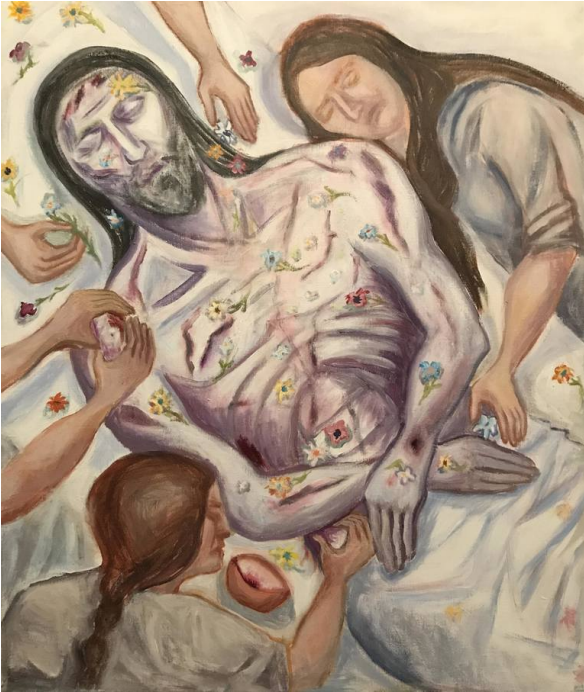


THE SEVENTH STOP: THE BURIAL OF JESUS

"...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb."



Jesus is Laid in the Tomb
by Tea Schaino

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb."

(Matthew 27:57-61)

Reflect Burial is the period at the end of the human sentence. Its crushing finality bears witness to the extent of loss. How does one ever find compensation for the death of a loved one – more so for the death of one who carries all hope for the future?

The Hindu poet Tagore tells of a widow who grieved bitterly by the river for her dead husband and wished desperately to join him. A wise man, finding her so aggrieved, sent her home with much spiritual encouragement, promising that she would soon find her beloved.

After a month, neighbors noticed a change in the woman's demeanor and a lightness about her, and asked, "Woman, have you found your husband? Where is he?" She answered, "In my heart is my lord, one with me." She had realized what all who grieve must learn – that what is held in the heart is never truly lost.

Pray **Lord, may your presence in our hearts sustain us in hope until we find you again – face to face. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, the hope for the world. Jesus, the hope for the world.
Jesus, our joy; Jesus, eternal one.
Jesus, our God and our all.*